

Philadelphia, PA — Emphasizing the importance of government service and sharing insight from his decades of military service, Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA), today spoke at the commissioning of the University of Pennsylvania Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) officers.

Prior to winning election to the House of Representatives from the 7th District of Pennsylvania, Representative Sestak rose to the rank of 3-star Admiral in the U.S. Navy. In his remarks, Rep. Sestak drew on his experiences as Commander of thirty ships and 15,000 sailors during operations off the coast of Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Today’s new officers begin their service to this country at a crucial time,” said Rep. Sestak. “Their service to this country will be both incredibly rewarding and challenging, but I know they will serve this country admirably and with integrity. As an Admiral and Congressman, I applaud their commitment and wish them the best in their new careers as naval officers.”

In particular, Rep. Sestak commended Ryan Verost. Rep. Sestak first met Ryan at Jefferson Hospital following a motorcycle accident in which Ryan broke his back. Today, Ryan is a new Marine Corps officer.

Following his remarks, Rep. Sestak led the ROTC officers in the same oath of office he took on his commissioning in 1974.

The new officers and their fields of service are:
Benjamin Adams, Surface Warfare Officer
Nicholas Bleeker, Naval Intelligence Officer
Katie Burkhart, Surface Warfare Officer
Andrew Green, Student Naval Aviator
Alexander Manhas, Surface Warfare Officer
Nathan Rao, Surface Warfare Officer
Schuyler Thompson, Student Naval Flight Officer
Amanda Turney, Navy Nurse Corps
William Goetz, Marine Corps
Ryan Verost, Marine Corps

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.